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# Scientists Hit U.S. Claim on Soviet Budget

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The claim by the Pentagon's two top research officials that American intelligence has "cracked the code" of the Soviet military research budget is "at best a gross exaggeration, and at worst a snow job," the Federation of American Scientists has charged.

Its charge yesterday was in response to an article in Tuesday's Star reporting an interview with Dr. John S. Foster Jr., director of defense research and engineering, and his principal deputy, Dr. Eberhard Rechtin.

In the interview, Foster said the breakthrough in understanding the Soviet military research budget had disclosed a gap equivalent to about \$3 billion in technological efforts.

The scientists' response came during a hearing by the Senate Armed Services ad hoc subcommittee on research, headed by Sen. Thomas McIntyre, D-N.H. It was contained in a five-page statement delivered by Dr. Jeremy J. Stone, director of the FAS.

Dr. George W. Rathjens, professor of political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told the subcommittee he is deeply concerned by the growing credibility gap created by what he described as Foster's misrepresentations or exaggerations of the Soviet research and development capability.

Stone also read a statement from Dr. Herbert F. York, chairman of the FAS and a former holder of the job now filled by Foster.

Both York and Rathjens urged the subcommittee to call in experts from the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies to comment on the claim by Foster and Rechtin that the country is faced by a growing "research gap" with the Soviet Union.

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